

**TOP SECRET**

Approved For Release 2003/01/24 : CIA-RDP63-00313A000500050011-0



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NRO review completed

1/16/63

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MEMORANDUM FOR : Director, National Reconnaissance Office  
SUBJECT : Improvement of CORONA/N  
REFERENCE: : (1) [ ] 4634-63, Memo from NRO to D/R, dated 7 January 1963, Subject as above  
                 (2) Itak Corp. R Prime Proposal, No. 3122, dated 21 December 1962

1. Reference (2) contains certain suggestions on improvements on the CORONA N system as requested by NSC (Reference 1). These improvements are generally within the scope of the current improvement program being implemented by the Technical Directive route. Because of the impact of the items proposed on all associate contractors, the suggested improvements are an agenda item at the SETB meeting on 13 February 1963.

2. The following comments pertain to the individual items of Reference (2):

Item I: In, the titanium assembly for reduced thermal sensitivity, has already been qualified, and flight configurations are due for delivery shortly. Item Ib, active thermal control, is not discussed in the proposal generally. NSC has an effort under way for improvement of the passive system. Incidentally, our best performance appears to be in the region of 80°F rather than the design value of 70°F.

Item II: Roller modification: This has been under investigation, and the CSC is expecting a design proposal to permit incorporation of the needed rollers.

Item III: Need for exposure control devices has not been established, considering the additional complications of automatic devices. NSC has proposed a measurement of light levels received at the skin line. Should the light received show sufficient correlation with desired exposure, Itak will be asked to submit a Technical Directive for an automatic exposure control.

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Item IV: Weight control, on a system basis, is already a high-priority activity of all contractors and of SSTD.

Item V: Ultra Thin Base film is not available in required quantities. At present, only limited test samples are available. Redesign to handle thin base material should await further development by Eastman.

Item VI: V/H sensors are being evaluated on other programs. These developments will be evaluated for the CORONA program when development has proceeded further.

Item VII: Redesign of CORONA system. This does not seem warranted at this time, considering development status of ultra thin base materials, v/h sensors and automatic exposure control.

Signed Herbert Scoville, Jr.

HERBERT SCOVILLE, Jr.  
Deputy Director  
(Research)

**Signature Recommended:**

(Signed) Jack C. Ledford

**JACK C. LEDFORD**  
Colonel USAF  
Assistant Director, CSA

C/DD/OSA/JPARANDOSKY:rel  
(11 February 1963)

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